

transmitted from the movable weight 963 through the spring 966 in addition to the counter force of the reciprocation; but the principle of generation of vibration in the oscillatory actuator 950 is based on the use of the oscillatory vibration occurring by a counter force of the reciprocation of the movable weight 963.

[0380] The brake member 964 has a brush 965 in constant contact with the side surface of the movable weight 963. This brush 965 is so designed as to give a suitable contact resistance to the side surface of the movable weight 963. Here, the contact resistance given by the brush 965 to the movable weight 963 does not inhibit reciprocation much at all when a drive signal is applied to the coil 962 and the movable weight 963 reciprocates. On the other hand, when application of a drive signal to the coil 962 is stopped, the reciprocation of the movable weight 963 quickly stops due to the above contact resistance.

[0381] That is, the brake member 964 acts as a brake for causing the reciprocation of the movable weight 963 to quickly stop when application of a drive signal to the coil 962 is stopped. Note that instead of the brush 965, it is also possible to use a member formed by sponge, urethane, felt, rubber, and the like.

[0382] FIG. 65 to FIG. 67 are plan views illustrating examples of placement of the brake member 964 and show the case of viewing the inside of the oscillatory actuator 950 from above the sectional view shown in FIG. 64. FIG. 65 shows an example of placement of three brake members 964a around the movable weight 963 at 120 degree intervals. Further, FIG. 66 shows an example of placement of two brake members 964b facing each other across the movable weight 963. Further, FIG. 67 shows an example of placement of a single cylindrical brake member 964c so as to surround the movable weight 963.

[0383] Here, when for example providing the brake member 964a at just one location around the movable weight 963, the movable weight 963 is subjected to contact resistance from only one direction of contact with the brush 965a of the brake member 964a. Therefore, the posture of the movable weight 963 collapses at the time of reciprocation, and the vibration generated from the oscillatory actuator 950 fluctuates in direction. Further, even when stopping application of the drive signal, since a contact resistance from the brush 965a is applied to the movable weight 963 from one direction, the posture of the movable weight 963 collapses and the reciprocation cannot be stopped quickly. Further, a large deviation in the direction of vibration occurs even when stopping application of the drive signal.

[0384] To prevent this from happening, as shown in FIG. 65 to FIG. 67, it becomes necessary to place brake members 964a to 964c so as to give proportional contact resistance of the brushes 965a to 965c to the movable weight 963 from around the weight. Further, to keep down wear of the brushes 965a to 965c due to aging or deformation of the brake members 964a to 964c, it is effective to make the contact area of the movable weight 963 and the brushes 965a to 965c as large as possible to an extent not obstructing reciprocation of the movable weight 963.

[0385] With an oscillatory actuator without a brake mechanism for the movable weight 963, when application of a drive voltage of the period T1 shown in FIG. 68 is stopped,

as shown in FIG. 69, the reciprocation of the movable weight 963 does not immediately stop and unnecessary vibration lingers. Therefore, such an oscillatory actuator cannot give the user a "click" or other feeling of operation, where a clear distinction must be exhibited in the strength of vibration in a short time, by vibrational stimulus. Further, at the time same, it is not possible to clearly modulate between vibration and non-vibration.

[0386] As opposed to this, according to the first example of the present embodiment, when application of the drive signal shown in FIG. 68 to the oscillatory actuator 950 is stopped, as shown in FIG. 70, the reciprocation of the movable weight 963 is quickly made stopped by the contact resistance of the brake member 964. Therefore, unnecessary vibration does not linger and a "click" feeling of operation can be given to the user by vibrational stimulus. Further, vibration and non-vibration can be clearly modulated.

[0387] [M-2: Second Example]

[0388] FIG. 71 is a sectional view illustrating the internal structure of an oscillatory actuator 951 according to a second example of this embodiment. In this figure, the oscillatory actuator 951 has inside a case 961 a coil 962, a movable weight 963, a spring 966, a brake member 971, and a brake coil 972. Note that in the figure, the vibratory member is provided at a position facing the coil 962 across the case 961. Further, the case 961, coil 962, and movable weight 963 are the same as in the first example of the present embodiment, so explanations will be omitted.

[0389] The brake member 971 has a brake surface 971a covered on its front surface with rubber and a magnet 971b. Further, the brake member 971 has attached to it a spring 973 for pulling the brake surface 971 toward the side surface of the movable weight 963. In the brake member 971, in the period when a drive signal is not applied to the brake coil 972, the brake surface 971a is pushed against the side surface of the movable weight 963 by the force of the spring 973. On the other hand, in the period when a drive signal is applied to the brake coil 972, in the brake member 971, the magnet 971b is pulled toward the brake coil 972, so the brake surface 971a moves away from the side surface of the movable weight 963. Note that instead of rubber, it is also possible to attach sponge, urethane, felt, a brush, etc. to the front surface of the brake surface 971a.

[0390] FIG. 72 is a view illustrating a circuit configuration for applying a drive signal to the coil 962 and the brake coil 972. In the figure, the oscillator 974 generates a drive signal for driving the coil 962. An example of the waveform of the drive signal generated by this oscillator 974 is shown in FIG. 73. The movable weight 963 reciprocates by the application of the alternating current waveform shown in the figure to the coil 962. Further, the brake control circuit 975 generates a drive signal to be applied to the brake coil 972. This brake control circuit 975 monitors the drive signal generated from the oscillator 974 and outputs a drive signal of a square wave to the brake coil 972 for exactly the period T2 during which the drive signal is generated by the oscillator 974.

[0391] Therefore, in the period when the oscillator 974 applies a drive signal to the coil 962, a drive signal is applied from the brake control circuit 975 to the brake coil 972, so the brake surface 971a of the brake member 971 moves